

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10  
L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 DHA-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06  
OIC-02 /113 W  
-----171659Z 042182 /47

R 171617Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3977  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08130

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, UK  
SUBJECT: ILO - 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE:  
CONVERSATION WITH TUC GENERAL SECRETARY

REF: LONDON 8088

1. EMBASSY E/C MIN ACCOMPANIED BY LABOR ATTACHE MET  
WITH LEN MURRAY, TUC GENERAL SECRETARY, ON MAY 17 IN  
THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF SCHEDULED VISITS CONCERNING  
THE CRISIS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION.

2. E/C MIN REVIEWED THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE  
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US LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO AND  
ENUMERATED SOME OF THE PARTICULAR CONCERNS OF THE USG  
INCLUDING THE VIOLATION OF DUE PROCESS, THE EXISTENCE  
OF A DOUBLE STANDARD ON HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS,  
THE POLITICIZATION OF THE ILO' AND THE EROSION OF THE  
TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE. HE EMPHASIZED THE VITAL IMPOR-  
TANCE WHICH THE 63RD CONFERENCE PLAYS IN THE ULTIMATE

CONSIDERATION OF US MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO AND SOUGHT  
SUPPORT FROM THE TUC ON CRITICAL ISSUES BEFORE THE  
CONFERENCE.

3. MURRAY SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE THE DISCUSSION  
AND WHILE BROADLY FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUES RAISED,  
IT WAS CYRIL PLANT, UK WORKER DELEGATE -- NOW RECUPERAT-  
ING FROM A HEART ATTACK -- WHO HANDLES THE DETAILS.  
HE STRESSED THAT THE TUC SHARES THE GENERAL POSITION  
ELABORATED BY THE USG. INCLUDING DESIRE TO RESOLVE THE  
PROBLEM OF POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS, TO ENSURE DUE  
PROCESS, TO DISPOSE OF THE ISRAELI ISSUE, AND TO  
PROTECT THE TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE, ABOUT WHICH THE TUC  
FEELS VERY DEEPLY. THEY ALSO SUPPORT JOE MORRIS AS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE. MURRAY THOUGHT THAT THE  
LETTER OF INTENT QUITE LIKELY "CONCENTRATED THE MINDS  
OF MANY PEOPLE" AND RESULTED IN PROGRESS IN THESE  
AREAS.

4. HE SAID "YOU WILL NOTE FROM WHAT CYRIL PLANT HAS  
BEEN DOING AT THE ILO THAT WE WON'T FIND IT DIFFICULT  
TO GO ALONG GENERALLY ALONG THE LINES, IF NOT EVERY DOT  
AND COMMA, WHICH YOU HAVE INDICATED -- PARTLY TO SEE  
THE ILO SURVIVE, FOR WE BELIEVE IT IS A VERY USEFUL  
INSTITUTION, PARTICULARLY FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES'  
TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS, AND BECAUSE IT DOES PROVIDE A  
TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE." MURRAY SAID HE IS VERY HOPEFUL  
THAT THERE WILL BE NO "MAJOR IMPEDIMENT" EMERGING FROM  
THE 63RD CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE US WITH-  
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DRAWAL FROM THE ILO. HE SAID THAT FROM WHAT HE IS  
TOLD, MOREOVER, "THERE IS NO PROPENSITY ON THE PART OF  
THE EASTERN EUROPEANS TO USE THE CURRENT CRISIS AS A

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OIC-02 /113 W

-----171657Z 042249 /47

R 171617Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3978  
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 08130

MEANS OF CAPTURING THE ORGANIZATION" AFTER THE US LEFT,  
FOR "THIS WOULD BE A PYRRHIC VICTORY."

5. THE TUC LEADER SAID HIS ORGANIZATION'S AIM IS A)  
"TO KEEP THE ILO ALIVE," B) "TO KEEP IT IN A FORM IN  
WHICH IT CAN DO THE JOB, ALTHOUGH THIS DOES NOT IMPLY  
NO CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION AND CONSTITUTION OVER A  
PERIOD OF TIME." AND C) "TO KEEP WORKING CLOSELY WITH  
OUR FRIENDS IN THE AFL-CIO." HE ADDED: "THERE IS NO  
SINGLE TEST BUT EACH IS A POWERFUL CONSIDERATION. WE  
WOULD BE VERY UNHAPPY, INDEED' IF THE US WERE TO DE-  
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CIDE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO, OR IF THE AFL-CIO RE-  
MAINED HOSTILE. WE WOULD THEN FACE A REAL DILEMMA.  
SHOULD WE STAY IN AND FIGHT WITHIN A WEAK, INEFFECTIVE  
ORGANIZATION? OUR NORMAL TENDENCY IS TO OPERATE  
WITHIN."

6. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE TUC, LIKE THE UK  
EMPLOYERS DELEGATE J. COATES (REFTEL). ARE QUITE  
ANXIOUS TO PREVENT THE DEPARTURE OF THE UNITED STATES  
FROM THE ILO. HOWEVER. BOTH COATES AND MURRAY, WHILE  
TRYING TO AVOID SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, ALSO INDICATE THAT  
RESERVATIONS ABOUT US APPROACHES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES  
REMAIN. THIS IS REFLECTED, IN PART, BY COATES' QUERY

ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A "COMPROMISE" ON THE ISRAELI  
ISSUE. FOR HIS PART, MURRAY ALMOST IN A "THROW-AWAY"  
PHRASE REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR CHANGES IN THE ILO  
"COMPOSITION AND CONSTITUTION OVER A PERIOD OF TIME."  
THIS SUGGESTS THAT SOME OF THE VERY THORNY PROBLEMS  
WHICH MAY BE SET ASIDE IN GENEVA DURING THE CONFERENCE  
WILL NOT READILY GO AWAY AFTER NOVEMBER 1977.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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